

## **U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal**

### **Warden Message**

#### **Continued Civil Unrest**

June 28, 2011

Violent demonstrations erupted overnight in various neighborhoods of Dakar. While last week's demonstrations (specifically those on June 23<sup>rd</sup>) focused on a controversial law regarding the upcoming Presidential elections, demonstrations last night focused on public frustration over continued and increasing power outages in Dakar. While power cuts are not a new phenomenon, their frequency and duration have increased in recent months. In addition, it should be noted that two separate churches were torched over the weekend in separate locations near Dakar. While not related to the issue of power cuts, it is an indication of ongoing unrest and the possibility of violence.

The demonstrations last night quickly became violent, with protestors throwing rocks, burning tires, torching cars and buses, and blocking roads. Further demonstrations are planned today, which may target various sites in the city and/or the offices of Senelec (the national electricity company.) Demonstrations in other locations could occur without prior notice, and demonstrations of this nature may continue in the coming days.

Travel plans should be amended to account for the possibility of continued protests and/or ensuing violence and delays in these affected areas. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can quickly and without much advance warning turn confrontational and escalate into violence. The Embassy, therefore, urges U.S. citizens to avoid crowds, political gatherings, and street demonstrations, even if they appear to be peaceful, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations. If indoors when a demonstration begins, shelter in place until it is safe to move about. U.S. citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surrounding at all times.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Dakar website (<http://dakar.usembassy.gov/>). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information ([http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1013.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html)). If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP - <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP

up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:consulardakar@state.gov). The Embassy telephone number is (221) 33 829-2100.

For after-hours emergencies, U.S. citizens should call (221) 33-829-2109 and ask to speak with the duty officer.